

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments prior to examination of the instant application is respectfully requested.

I. Amendments.

A. To the Specification.

The amendments to the specification are to correct obvious and inadvertent typographical errors that have been noted in the specification and to update the priority information.

The reaction scheme on page 49, line 6 has been amended to reflect the description of the accompanying text, *i.e.*, to insert the subscript “n” after the $-(CHCH_2)-$ to properly represent the polymeric portion of the described poly(vinypyrrolidone) or PVP, as described on page 48, line 27 to page 49, line 5.

The reaction scheme on page 55, line 20, has been amended to reflect formation of the corresponding amide upon reaction of the branched PEG succinimidyl ester with the amino group of an illustrative protein. Support for the generalized reaction of an activated ester with an amino group to form an ester is provided on the bottom of page 54, reaction d).

No new matter has been introduced into the specification as a result of these amendments.

B. To the Claims.

New claims 68 to 96 have been submitted herein to replace originally filed claims 1 through 67, now cancelled. The subject matter of the newly presented claims is supported in the application as originally filed.

Explicit support for each of the new claims is provided below:

Claim 68. Support for claim 68 is provided in the specification at the following locations: S page 11, lines 23-25; page 15, lines 22-15; page 17, lines 26-28; page 23, line 24 through page 24, line 2; page 27, lines 9 to 20; page 44, lines 21-25; and at page 48, lines 18 to 20.

Claims 69, 80, and 92. Support for these claims is found throughout the specification and

in particular at page 11, lines 16-17.

Claim 70, 71. Support for this claim is found on page 48, lines 12 to 17, and in original claim 12.

Claims 72: Support for this claim is found throughout the specification and in particular, at page 1 in the title; and at page 1, line 9.

Claims 73, 81, and 82. Support for these claims is found on page 44, lines 22 to 25; page 42, lines 17 to 18 (amino); page 45, lines 7-8 (diamino alcohol) .

Claims 74 and 87. Support for these claims is found on page 15, lines 15 to 16.

Claim 75. Support for this claim is found on page 17, lines 25-26.

Claims 76 and 77. Support for these claims is found on page 6, lines 13 to 20; and on page 20, lines 3-4.

Claims 78, 79 and 86. Support for these claims is provided in the specification at page 4, lines 15 to 17; at page 4, lines 22-23; at page 6, lines 18-20; at page 7, lines 12-13 (PEG diol); at page 15, line 24; at page 23, lines 24-26 (mPEG-OH); at page 24, line 31 (activated mPEG).

Claims 83 and 84. Support for claims 83 and 84 is found in the specification at page 26, line 29 to page 27, line 20.

Claim 85. Support for this claim is found in the specification at page 10, lines 14 to page 11, line 4; and on page 31, lines 10-12.

Claims 88 and 89. Support for these claims is provided on page 11, lines 19-21; on page 12, lines 18 to 22; on page 14, lines 24 to 29; and on page 31, lines 10-12.

Claim 90. This claim is supported in the specification at page 23, lines 28-29; and at page 27, lines 8 and 14.

Claim 91. This claim is supported in the specification at page 27, lines 13-14.

Claim 93. This claim is supported in the specification at page 21, lines 13-15.

Claim 94. This claim is supported in the specification at page 24, lines 1-2 and at page 27, lines 9 to 20.

Claims 95 and 96. Support for these claims is as stated above for claims 68 and 78 above.

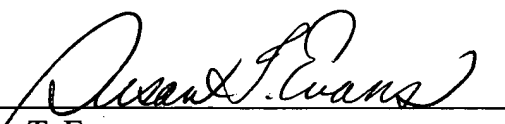
No new matter has been introduced into the application as a result of these amendments.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that the claims pending in the application are fully supported by the specification as originally filed and are in condition for examination on their merits.

If a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (650) 631-3487.

Respectfully submitted,
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